

A message was received from the Governor, transmitting the following communications :

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, }
AUSTIN, Texas, 7th July, 1856 }

Gentlemen of the Senate,
and House of Representatives :

I return herewith to the Senate, in which it originated, "An Act to incorporate the Trinity Valley Railroad Company."

In the communication I had the honor to submit to you at the commencement of your session, I mentioned certain rules that I thought ought to be adhered to in granting new Railroad charters ; among which were the following, viz : That no new charters should be granted to individuals for their own benefit—that they should be granted to Commissioners, who should be required to open books for the subscription of stock, after giving public notice. No subscription should be secured, unless five per cent. thereof is paid at the time of subscribing, and whenever an amount of the capital stock has been subscribed equal to one-tenth or one-twentieth of the capital necessary to construct the road, the Commissioners should be authorized to call a meeting of the subscribers, and hold an election for officers, after which the subscribers should become a corporation, with all such powers as are set forth in the charter. The commissioners should have no rights under the charter, except as Trustees, for the benefit of the subscribers, when they organize and become a corporation, and should be liable to a heavy penalty for receiving subscriptions of stock without the payment of five per cent. thereof in cash. The corporations thus organized, should have authority, from time to time, to receive further subscriptions to its capital stock, to the full

amount thereof, after giving public notice; the subscribers, in all cases, paying five per cent. of their stock at the time of subscribing.

Subsequent reflection has strengthened my conviction of the soundness of these rules, and has satisfied me that they ought to be incorporated into every Railroad charter, since they will effectually prevent the sale of our charters by the commissioners to whom they are granted—a practice, which, it is well known, has prevailed extensively.

The Act incorporating the Washington county Railroad Company, passed at this session, contained all the provisions here recommended, and it was approved by me. This Act contains none of them, but grants the charter to commissioners, who may use it for their own individual benefit, without regard to the public interest. I feel unwilling to sanction any more charters of this character; I therefore return it to you for your reconsideration.

E. M. PEASE.